

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A catheter useful for non-surgical entry into a uterus to dispense a diagnostic fluid therein, the catheter comprising:

a tubular body having a lumen extending from a first end thereof to a second end thereof, the lumen having an external opening adjacent the first end for dispensing a diagnostic fluid into the interior of a subject uterus; and

a balloon disposed marginally adjacent to the first end of the body for fluid sealing the interior of the subject uterus;

the lumen having a second opening in fluid communication with the interior of the balloon for inflation thereof with the diagnostic fluid.

2. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the body is flexible.

3. The catheter according to claim 2, further comprising a movable sheath that can be moved to a first position to cover a portion of the body to add rigidity thereto thus aiding in the insertion of the catheter, and which can be moved to a second position to uncover the portion of the body thus allowing it to bend and flex freely.

4. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the balloon can be sequentially inflated into first and second predetermined shapes.

5. The catheter according to claim 4, wherein the first predetermined shape is substantially elliptical and the second predetermined shape is substantially spherical.

6. The catheter according to claim 4, wherein the balloon is made from polyurethane.

7. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the balloon is made from polyurethane.

8. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the second opening prevents fluid back-flow in the lumen to maintain inflation of the balloon.

9. A catheter apparatus useful for non-surgical entry into a uterus to dispense a diagnostic fluid therein, the catheter apparatus comprising:

a catheter;

a syringe for delivering the diagnostic fluid into the catheter;

the catheter having a balloon disposed marginally adjacent to a first end thereof for fluid sealing the interior of the subject uterus, a lumen extending from the first end to a second end of the catheter, the lumen having an external opening adjacent the first end for dispensing the diagnostic fluid into the interior of a subject uterus and a second opening in fluid communication with the interior of the balloon for inflation thereof with the diagnostic fluid.

10. The catheter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second opening prevents fluid back-flow in the lumen to maintain inflation of the balloon.

11. The catheter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the catheter is flexible.

12. The catheter apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a movable sheath that can be moved to a first position to cover a portion of the body to add rigidity thereto thus aiding in the insertion of the catheter, and which can be moved to a second position to uncover the portion of the body thus allowing it to bend and flex freely.

13. The catheter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the balloon can be sequentially inflated into first and second predetermined shapes.

14. The catheter apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first predetermined shape is substantially elliptical and the second predetermined shape is substantially spherical.

15. The catheter apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the balloon is made from polyurethane.

16. The catheter apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the balloon is made from polyurethane.

17. A method for making a catheter which is useful for non-surgical entry into a uterus to dispense a diagnostic fluid therein, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a tubular body having a lumen extending from a first end thereof to a second end thereof,

creating an external opening adjacent the first end of the body, the external opening for dispensing a diagnostic fluid into the interior of a subject uterus;

attaching a balloon marginally adjacent to the first end of the body, the balloon for fluid sealing the interior of the subject uterus; and

creating a second opening in the lumen which is in fluid communication with the interior of the balloon for inflation thereof with the diagnostic fluid.

18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of providing a syringe that delivers the diagnostic fluid into the catheter, the syringe and the catheter forming a catheter apparatus.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the second opening prevents fluid back-flow in the lumen to maintain inflation of the balloon.

20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the catheter is flexible.

21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing a movable sheath that can be moved to a first position to cover a portion of the body to add rigidity

thereto thus aiding in the insertion of the catheter, and which can be moved to a second position to uncover the portion of the body thus allowing it to bend and flex freely.

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